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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/975,114	10/11/2001	Tomonari Ohtsuki	A34699	8767

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, KHIEM M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2839

DATE MAILED: 12/18/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	09/975114	Applicant(s)	OHTSUKI
Examiner	K. NGUYEN	Group Art Unit	2839

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____

This action is **FINAL**.

Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.

Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement

Application Papers

The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.

The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner

The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d).

All Some* None of the:

Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received
in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a))

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____ Interview Summary, PTO-413

Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892 Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948 Other. _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Gleason et al. (5,914,613). See disclosure and figures 13-14.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Admitted Prior Art (APA) in view of Gleason et al., Sinsheimer et al. (6,027,346) and Brodsky et al. (5,984,691).

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The APA electrical connector for connecting oppositely arranged first and second mating electrical means comprising a support member as substantially discussed in the background of the instant invention and shown in figures 10-12 of the drawings lack at least one ridge having a triangular cross-section provided on a surface of its contact elements and slits arranged at random to be directed in different directions provided around said contact elements.

Gleason et al. discloses contact elements (176, 212) provided with slits 194 arranged at random to be directed in different directions around said contact elements.

Sinsheimer et al. discloses contact elements 100 provided with at least one ridge on the surface of the contact elements. See figures 5A-5C.

Brodsky et al. Also discloses contact elements provided with at least one ridge 57 having a triangular cross-section on its surfaces.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the contact elements of the APA with slits arranged at random to be located in different directions around said contact elements as shown and disclosed by Gleason et al. Slits disclosed at random would provide a more even distribution force and controlled rubbing of the mating surfaces.

It also would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide at least one ridge having a triangular cross-section on the surfaces of said contact elements in view of the teachings of Sinsheimer et al. and Brodsky et al.

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The use of contact ridges is old and well known in the art and would provide a better mating contact interface.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Khiem Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 308-1738.

KN

December 16, 2002



Khiem Nguyen

Primary Examiner

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